

a biasing member for ejecting the holder when the card is removed from the card accommodation section.

A/ 11. (Amended) A card attachment and detachment device according to Claim 10, further comprising a rib positioned at a part of the card accommodation section, the rib coming into contact with a distinctive shaped section of the card when the card is placed in the card accommodation section.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

This amendment is in response to the non-responsive Office Action of December 2, 2002. Claims 1-11 are presently active in this case. The present amendment amends Claims 1-11.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to because only that which is old was illustrated in Figure 1. Claims 8-10 were objected to for informalities. Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as indefinite. Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Kubo (GB 2 326 050 A).

Applicants note that the title of the invention was changed by the International Searching Authority during the International Stage from "CARD ATTACHMENT/DETACHMENT DEVICE" to --"CARD ATTACHING AND DETACHING DEVICE--". The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (hereinafter "USPTO") listed the amended title on the Official Filing Receipt mailed on April 16, 2002. However, Applicant's specification and declaration list the unamended title of the invention. Therefore, Applicants are hereby requesting the USPTO to correct their records to reflect the original title of the invention, namely, "CARD ATTACHMENT/DETACHMENT DEVICE" since that is what is on the originally filed specification and the declaration.

In response to the objection to the drawings, submitted herewith is a separate letter requesting approval of drawing changes adding the appropriate labels. Attached herewith are the formal drawings including the requested changes.

In response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claims 1-11 have been amended to correct the noted informalities. In view of amended Claims 1-11, it is believed that all pending claims are definite and no further rejection on that basis is anticipated. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually acceptable language.

In response to the objection to Claims 8-10, the Official Action notes that Claim 9 is a duplicate of Claim 8. Applicants traverse this objection as Claim 9 comprises a rib arranged at the "card accommodation section" denoted by reference numeral 12 whereas Claim 8 describes a rib arranged at the "engagement device" denoted by several reference numerals including at least reference numerals 13, 16, 17. Applicants have corrected the antecedent basis problems in Claim 10. Further, even if they were duplicates the rejection is rendered moot in light of the discussion below.

Turning now to the rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Kubo. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections and traverse the rejections as discussed next.

Applicants have amended Claims 1-11 to overcome the rejection under Kubo.

The Kubo reference is an English counterpart of Japanese Laid-Open Patent Hei10-336292 which is disclosed in the specification.

Kubo fails to recite numerous elements present in Claims 1-11. In Kubo, the part 52a-1 does not function as a stopper section and a biasing member 52a that ejects the card to the outside is not taught or suggested by the Kubo Patent. Further, the part 52a-1 does not

communicate with the card accommodation section displaced from the card insertion and removal opening in a width direction of the card as is alleged in the Official Action. Lastly, no biasing member which ejects the engagement means to the outside when the card is removed from the card accommodation section is taught or suggested by the Kubo Patent. Additionally, Claim 1 has been amended to include the additional feature “displacement in a thickness direction” to further differentiate from Kubo.

Claim 1, on the other hand, includes a stopper section which is not believed to be present in Kubo. Further, Claim 1 includes a biasing member which ejects the card to the outside. Claim 5 of the present invention discloses a stopper section constituting a part of the card insertion and removal opening which communicates with the card accommodation section displaced from the card insertion and removal opening in a thickness direction of the card. Further, Claim 10 of the present invention discloses a biasing member which ejects the engagement member when the card is removed from the card accommodation section. As such, numerous features of the present invention are not taught or suggested by the Kubo Patent.

In view of the above, the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest every feature recited in Applicants' claims, so that amended Claims 1-11 are believed to be patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejection under Kubo is rendered moot.

Consequently, in view of the present amendments, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-11 is earnestly solicited.

Finally, the attention of the Patent Office is directed to the change of address of Applicants' representative, effective January 6, 2003:

Oblon, Spivak, McClelland, Maier & Neustadt, P.C.

1940 Duke Street

Alexandria, VA 22314.

Please direct all future communications to this new address.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, he or she is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.



22850

Customer Number 22850
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(OSMMN 10/01)

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Maier', written over the printed name.

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IN THE CLAIMS

--1. (Amended) A card attachment[/detachment] and detachment device detachably holding [detachably]a card in a space defined between a body and a [lid]bottom plate, comprising:

a card accommodation section arranged at [any]one of the body and the [lid]bottom plate;

a terminal arranged at [the other]said one of the body and the bottom plate at which said card accommodation section is [to comes into contact with]spaced from a card placed in the card accommodation section and to press the card toward the card accommodation section;

a stopper section [constituting]forming a part of a card [insertion/removal]insertion and removal opening[communicating], which communicates with the card accommodation section spaced from the card insertion and removal opening in a thickness direction of the card, and [coming into contact]which is engageable with a part of the card placed in the card accommodation section; and

a [first]biasing [means]member for pressing the card toward the stopper section when the card is placed in the card accommodation section and for ejecting the card to the outside through the card [insertion/removal]insertion and removal opening when the card is removed from the card accommodation section.

2. (Amended) A card [attachment/detachment]attachment and detachment device according to Claim 1, further comprising a cap [arranged]detachably positioned at the card [insertion/removal]insertion and removal opening.

3. (Amended) A card [attachment/detachment]attachment and detachment device according to Claim 1, further comprising an operating member [means arranged to release]for releasing pressure of the [first]biasing [means]member applied to the card against the stopper section.

4. (Amended) A card [attachment/detachment]attachment and detachment device according to Claim 1, further comprising a rib arranged at a part of the card accommodation section, the rib coming into contact with a distinctive shaped section of the card when the card is placed in the card accommodation section.

5. (Amended) A card [attachment/detachment]attachment and detachment device holding detachably a card in a space defined between a body and a [lid]bottom plate, comprising:

a card accommodation section arranged at any one of the body and the [lid]bottom plate;

a stopper section [constituting]forming a part of a card [insertion/removal]insertion and removal opening, which communicates with the card accommodation section displaced from the card [insertion/removal]insertion and removal opening in a [width]thickness direction of the card, and [coming into contact]which is engageable with a part of the card placed in the card accommodation section;

an engagement [means]device for engaging with the card within the card accommodation section; and

an operating [means]device for moving the card to place a part of the engaged card in contact with the stopper section.

6. (Amended) A card [attachment/detachment]attachment and detachment device according to Claim 5, further comprising a [second]biasing [means]member for pressing the engagement [means]device in a direction [of]crossing a direction of insertion of the card.

7. (Amended) A card [attachment/detachment]attachment and detachment device according to Claim 5, further comprising a [third]second biasing [means]member for ejecting the engagement [means to the outside]device through the card [insertion/removal]insertion and removal opening.

8. (Amended) A card [attachment/detachment]attachment and detachment device according to Claim 5, further comprising a rib [arranged at]positioned in proximity with the engagement [means]device, the rib coming into contact with a [distinctive shaped]section of the card when the card is placed in the card accommodation section.

9. (Amended) A card [attachment/detachment]attachment and detachment device according to Claim 5, further comprising a rib [arranged at]positioned in proximity with the card accommodation section, the rib coming into contact with [a distinctive shaped]the section of the card when the card is placed in the card accommodation section.

10. (Amended) A card [attachment/detachment]attachment and detachment device holding detachably a card in a space defined between a body and a [lid]bottom plate, comprising:

a holder [allowing]for being inserted into and removed from the space and having a card accommodation section accommodating the card;

a lock [means]member for holding the holder within the space;

a release [means]member for releasing the lock of the lock [means]member; and

a biasing [means]member for ejecting the [engagement means]holder [to the outside] when the card is removed from the card accommodation section.

11. (Amended) A card [attachment/detachment]attachment and detachment device according to Claim 10, further comprising a rib [arranged]positioned at a part of the card accommodation section, the rib coming into contact with a distinctive shaped section of the card when the card is placed in the card accommodation section.--